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REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 3 has been cancelled, while claims 1, 2 and 4-7 have been amended for clarity.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,677,657 to Nagata et al. The Examiner has further rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata et al. in view of U.S. Patent 4,905,289 to Micic et al. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,122,230 to Scibora.

The Nagata et al. patent discloses a voice recording card for recording and reproducing a message. In a recording mode, the message is applied through a microphone, converted into a digital signal and recorded in a memory. The voice card comprises a D/A converter for converting the digital data stored in the memory to analog data, which can be reproduced as a voice from the speaker. In particular, "The digital data stored in the memory 22 can be transmitted through the transmitting and receiving apparatus 3" (see col. 4, lines 49-51).

In contrast with the storage medium of the subject invention, the output lines of the apparatus described in Nagata et al. are not exclusively connected to an output of the conversion

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unit. Rather, the digital audio data, stored in the memory, can be easily accessed for copying.

As claimed in claim 1, "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium, while the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form".

It is well founded that "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants therefore submit that the above element of claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested by Nagata et al.

The Micic et al. patent discloses an apparatus for the digital storage of audio signals employing read only memories. However, Applicants submit that Micic et al. does not supply that which is missing from Nagata et al., i.e., "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage


medium, while the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form".

The Scibora patent discloses a universal compressed audio player in which a conversion unit is configurable subject to authorization control and/or irreversibly. However, Applicants submit that Scibora does not supply that which is missing from Nagata et al., i.e., "the output lines of the storage medium, on which the useful analog audio and/or video output signals are made available to the reproducing apparatus, are connected to the conversion unit, for making only the analog audio and/or video output signals externally available from the storage medium, while the audio and/or video data is not externally available in digital form".

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, either individually or collectively, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1, 2 and 4-7, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by   
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